[1st March 1955

Magazine—" Soviet Land "

* 983 *Q*.—Sri S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM (on behalf of Sri P. Rangaswami Reddiar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Inspector of Schools recently prevented the Panchayat Board at Ramanathapuram from placing the Russian Magazines ' Soviet Union and Soviet Land ' in the Free Reading Rooms;

(*b*) whether the Government have issued any orders, directing the panchayat boards in the State not to place Russian Magazines, in the Reading Rooms and libraries; and

(*c*) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) The panchayat library, Ramanathapuram, is a library getting aid from Government. The Local Library Authority, Ramanathapuram, has resolved to refuse sanction for subscribing to certain journals and acceptance of the gift of ' Soviet Land ' by the aided libraries and this decision has been communicated by the authority to the Ramanathapuram Panchayat Board. The decision of the Local Library Authority is with reference to rule 18 (4) of the Madras Panchayat Libraries Rules.

" (*b*) No, Sir.

" (*c*) Does not arise."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, may I know when this order was passed and was it before acceptance of the policy of co-existence and Pancha Sila or afterwards? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I find that the order was passed on 10th January 1952."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" அமெரிக்க பத்திரிகைகள் அதாவது அமெரிக்கன் இன்பர்மேஷன் சர்வீசிலிருந்து வரக்கூடிய பத்திரிகைகள் லைப்ரரிகளில் அனுமதிக்கப்படுகின்றன. ஆனால் சோவியத் யூனியன், சோவியத் லாண்ட் என்ற பத்திரிகைகள் மாத்திரம் என் அனுமதிக்கப் படுவது இல்லை."

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is for the consideration of the Local Library Authority, Ramanathapuram, to consider this question. We have given them a certain amount of discretion in the matter. I suppose we should not be interfering at every stage? "

Sri S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" In view of the fact that reading magazines published from whichever part of the world will only add to the knowledge of the people reading them, will the Government consider this aspect of the question and advise the Local Library Authorities to allow all magazines irrespective of the part of the world they are published in even though they have got discretion in the matter of allowing magazines? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As a matter of fact, I have found these magazines in many of the libraries. But certain Library Authorities have taken a different view and this happened long ago. I am sure they would have revised their views and, perhaps, they have now admitted the magazines."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the improved relationship and cordiality between this State and the Soviet Union, will the Government now instruct the Local Library Authorities not to apply this rule as was done before? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already answered this question. There is no question of improvement. We have always been in cordial relationship with the Soviet Union."

South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company

* 984 *Q.*—SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the rates charged by the South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company, South Arcot, for the supply of electricity to—

(i) house-hold consumption;

(ii) industrial consumption; and

(iii) irrigation;

(*b*) the rates charged by the Government Electricity Department for the supply of electricity for the purposes mentioned above in the same district where this Company has no jurisdiction; and

(*c*) whether the Government propose to take over the South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company, South Arcot?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The particulars are furnished in the statement [a] placed on the table of the House.

" (*c*) The drawing up of a programme of acquisition of the electrical undertakings in the State under the Madras Electricity Undertakings (Acquisition) Act, 1954, which came into force from 13th October 1954, is under consideration."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" From the answer of the Hon. Minister, it is seen that Re. 0-5-9 is charged per unit by the South Arcot Electricity Distribution Company, Limited, and Re. 0-4-0 is charged per unit by Government. May I know from the Hon. Minister who are auditing the accounts of this company and whether the company have obtained the approval of the Government for charging such a high rate? "

[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 237–239 *infra*